



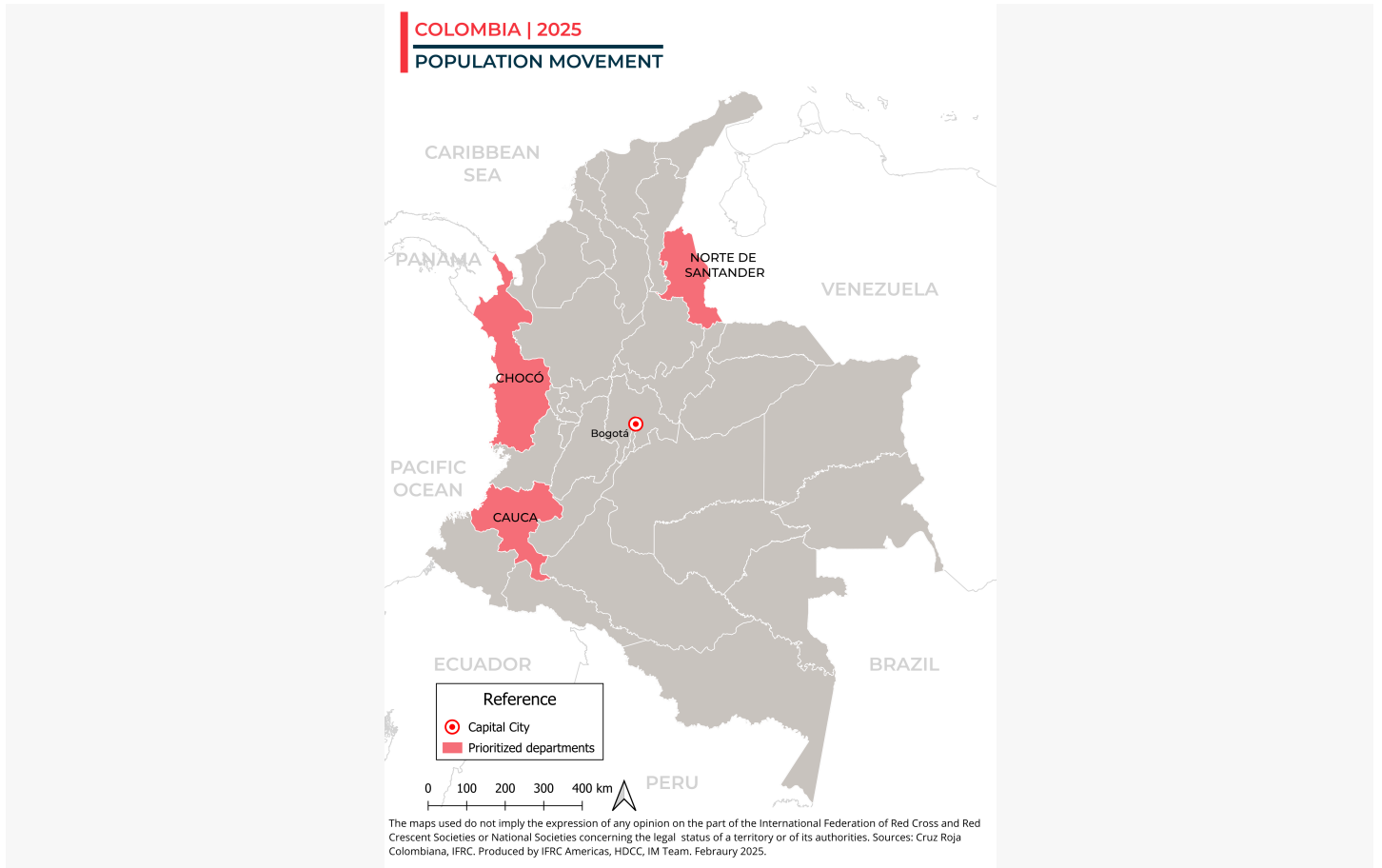
The inhabitants of Medio San Juan, Chocó, have been asking for peace in their territories. Medio San Juan, Chocó. Source: El Espectador, 17 February 2025.

Appeal: <b>MDRCO029</b>	Country: <b>Colombia</b>	Hazard: <b>Population Movement</b>	Type of DREF: <b>Response</b>
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 222,064</b>	
Glide Number: <b>-</b>	People Affected: <b>83,167 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>12,000 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>06-03-2025</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>4 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>31-07-2025</b>	DREF Published: <b>07-03-2025</b>
Targeted Areas: <b>Cauca, Choco, Norte de Santander</b>			

# Description of the Event

## Date of event

18-02-2025



Departments prioritized in Colombia for Internal forced displacement. Source: IFRC, 2025

## What happened, where and when?

Since 16 January to date, at least 83,167 people have been affected by the intensification of clashes between Non-State Armed Groups in the municipalities of Ábrego, Convención, El Tarra, San Calixto, Teorama, Hacarí, Sardinata and Tibú, in Norte de Santander. This escalation of violence has generated unprecedented displacement in the region, with 57,756 people forced to flee their territories, highlighting that this is the largest mass displacement recorded in the last 28 years.

Considering this situation, the government has declared a state of internal commotion and emergency (Decreet 006, 24 January 2025). Due to the exceptional nature of this situation, the Colombian Red Cross-National Society has requested the activation of an IFRC-DREF. To note that this is the first time that DREF is solicited for this type of emergency, highlighting the exceptional nature of the situation.

The report of the Ombudsman's Office, dated 16 February 2025, warns about the humanitarian crisis in Norte de Santander, Cauca and Chocó due to clashes between non-state armed groups. The conflict has left 57,756 people displaced and 25,411 people confined, affecting a total of 83,167 people.

In addition to the previously mentioned regions, the Ombudsman's Office has documented emergencies in Nariño, Valle del Cauca, Antioquia, Magdalena Medio, Arauca, Meta, Guaviare, Sur de Córdoba, Tolima and Putumayo; therefore, it is estimated that the number of people affected may be much higher.

In view of this situation, the Ombudsman's Office has requested the National Government to take protective measures, the international community to reinforce humanitarian support and the armed groups to respect the rights of the population and cease the recruitment of minors.



Norte de Santander:

- 16 January 2025: Multiple clashes and attacks against the civilian population are reported in the Catatumbo sub-region, with violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).
- 17 January 2025: The destruction of at least 2,600 explosive devices is reported in Tibú, indicating high contamination by weapons.
- Between January and February 2025: More than 22 security events are documented, including clashes and selective homicides in rural areas, restricting humanitarian access.

The escalation of violence in the Catatumbo region has generated a domino effect in other regions, such as the departments of Cauca and Chocó, which are planned to also be prioritized through this IFRC-DREF.

Cauca:

- 21 January 2025: An Early Warning is issued regarding the risk of expansion of the Western Bloc Commander Jacobo Arenas into rural areas of Popayán. It is warned that the group could impose territorial control affecting the civilian population.
- February 2025: The advance of the Western Bloc Commander Jacobo Arenas is confirmed in the villages of Los Cerrillos, Las Mercedes, Santa Rosa and La Meseta, generating a risk of confinement and displacement.

Chocó

- 4 January 2025: 558 people from the Afro-descendant communities of Puerto Martínez and Tripicay are confined due to clashes between the security forces and a non-state armed group.
- 6 January 2025: 568 people from Wounaan indigenous communities are confined due to restrictions imposed by an armed group, preventing access to crops and basic services.
- 7 February 2025: Displacement of 226 people from the communities of Puerto Murillo and Fujiadó to Noanamá due to fighting between armed groups.
- 18 February 2025: A 72-hour armed strike is reported in the department by the ELN.



Members of the Emberá community have had to leave their territories in the department of Cauca, 17 February 2025. Source: El Espectador



Attention by the Colombian Red Cross' Norte de Santander Branch due to massive displacements in Catatumbo. 30 January 2025. Cucuta Stadium. Source: Colombian Red Cross

## Scope and Scale

The escalation of violence in Norte de Santander, which is causing a domino effect in the departments of Cauca and Chocó with subsequent mass-internal displacement in the country has generated a humanitarian crisis of great magnitude, aggravated by the constant clashes, confinement of communities and serious violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Taking this context into account, the Colombian Red Cross has requested the activation of the IFRC-DREF to respond to the needs of the affected population.

According to the Ombudsman's Office, as of February 2025, 83,167 people have been affected, with 57,756 displaced and 25,411 confined. In addition, similar emergencies have been documented in Nariño, Valle del Cauca, Antioquia, Magdalena Medio, Arauca, Meta, Guaviare, South of Córdoba, Tolima and Putumayo, so the actual number of people at risk could be even higher.

Many displaced people lost their homes and are forced to live in precarious conditions, either in makeshift shelters, overcrowded or informal settlements without access to basic services. The most affected municipalities in Norte de Santander include Tibú and Catatumbo, with high levels of contamination by explosive devices. In Cauca, the advance of armed groups in rural areas such as Los Cerrillos, Las Mercedes and La Meseta has generated confinement and displacement. In Chocó, Afro-descendant and indigenous

communities have been trapped by the conflict, with restricted access to crops and basic services. Municipalities receiving displaced populations include Cúcuta, Tibú and Ocaña (Norte de Santander); Quibdó and Istmina (Chocó); and Popayán, Balboa, Cajibío and Argelia (Cauca), where the massive arrival of families has generated a crisis of attention and humanitarian assistance.

The main protection risks include selective homicides of social leaders and peace signatories, forced disappearances without state response, sexual and gender-based violence used as a control mechanism, forced recruitment of children and adolescents, confinement of communities that prevents access to food, health and education, presence of landmines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that limit mobility, forced displacement with loss of property and social disintegration, and mobility restrictions imposed by armed groups, affecting access to essential goods.

Faced with this crisis, the Ombudsman's Office has urged the National Government to strengthen protection, the international community to increase humanitarian aid, and the armed groups to cease hostilities and the recruitment of minors.

The Colombian Red Cross has started its response operation in Norte de Santander with support from ICRC and Participating National Societies. The UN has activated the CERF for 3.8 million USD for the first time in a long time (which is an indicator of the exceptional nature of the situation). Nevertheless, the magnitude of the event and increasing humanitarian needs caused by the escalation of violence in the identified departments highlight that gaps still exist. According to the Ombudsman's Office, the affected people in the Cauca and Chocó department are in desperate need of assistance and has urged humanitarian organizations present in the country to contribute to the response. This evolving context, therefore, has propelled the National Society to request the activation of this IFRC-DREF.

## Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Situation Emergency Catatumbo, Colombia: Response and Capacity, ELC/GIFFM/EHP, n.d.	<a href="https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiYjE3MzE2MWMtOGQ2Ny00Y2RiLTlInzEtYWIwYTUxNGY3ZjU1IiwidCI6IjNIOTQyYWU0LWNkOTMtNGQzNy1iZTJmLTY5MzIINDNjMTRiNyJ9">https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiYjE3MzE2MWMtOGQ2Ny00Y2RiLTlInzEtYWIwYTUxNGY3ZjU1IiwidCI6IjNIOTQyYWU0LWNkOTMtNGQzNy1iZTJmLTY5MzIINDNjMTRiNyJ9</a>
2. Newsletter, Ombudsman's Office, 16 February 2025	<a href="https://www.defensoria.gov.co/documents/20123/3085684/CRISIS+HUMANITARIA+ENERO+FEBRERO+2025.pdf/5d3cdcac-2859-fc24-5e89-03671a55cd46?t=1739798738522">https://www.defensoria.gov.co/documents/20123/3085684/CRISIS+HUMANITARIA+ENERO+FEBRERO+2025.pdf/5d3cdcac-2859-fc24-5e89-03671a55cd46?t=1739798738522</a>
3. Bulletin 27 PMU, Government of Norte de Santander, 16 February 2025	<a href="https://x.com/apnnoticias/status/1891555966186881439">https://x.com/apnnoticias/status/1891555966186881439</a>
4. Early Warning 001-25, Omdusman's Office, 21 January 2025	<a href="https://alertasstg.blob.core.windows.net/alertas/001-25.pdf">https://alertasstg.blob.core.windows.net/alertas/001-25.pdf</a>
5. Decreet 0062, President of the Colombian Republic, 24 January 2025	<a href="https://www.camara.gov.co/sites/default/files/2025-01/DECRETO%200062%20DEL%2024%20DE%20ENERO%20DE%202025.pdf">https://www.camara.gov.co/sites/default/files/2025-01/DECRETO%200062%20DEL%2024%20DE%20ENERO%20DE%202025.pdf</a>
6. Early Warning 004-25, Ombdusman's Office, 17 February 2025	<a href="https://alertasstg.blob.core.windows.net/alertas/004-25.pdf">https://alertasstg.blob.core.windows.net/alertas/004-25.pdf</a>

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	No
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-



If yes, please specify which operation

-

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

-

#### Lessons learned:

It is important to consider that, given the extremely volatile and unprecedented nature of the events, the Colombian Red Cross opted for a thorough assessment of its evolution and changes before the development of an IFRC-DREF application.

Previous experience in emergency response has shown that efficient inter-institutional coordination and the strengthening of local response capacity are fundamental to effectively attend to affected communities. The implementation of early warning mechanisms, such as the Ombudsman's Office Report issued on 16 February 2025, has reduced risks and facilitated timely evacuations. Coordination with humanitarian and community organizations has been key to ensure a comprehensive response, prioritizing the protection of vulnerable groups such as women, children and indigenous communities. Finally, the experience has shown the importance of guaranteeing the sustainability of the interventions through long-term recovery plans that cover the protection needs of the affected people.

Considering the emergency nature of the DREFs and the need to execute activities in short periods of 3 to 5 months, it is essential to improve planning strategies for the technical execution of actions. This requires a thorough knowledge of the contexts in which emergencies take place, the application of needs assessments at the beginning of the operation and constant monitoring of the context. In addition, it is crucial to establish a schedule of activities that considers all DREF processes, including procurement plans, internal administrative procedures, technical capacities and human talent in the affected territories.

## Current National Society Actions

### Start date of National Society actions

16-01-2025

<b>Shelter, Housing And Settlements</b>	At the Norte de Santander Branch, 500 mats, hammocks and blankets have been delivered to the affected population to complement their shelter kits.
<b>Livelihoods And Basic Needs</b>	In the Norte de Santander Branch, 3,318 family kits of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance have been delivered to the affected population.
<b>Health</b>	At the Norte de Santander Branch, 20,337 medicines have been donated to hospitals, as well as 3,190 medical items. 1,027 cards have been completed in support of the CRUE and the medical mission for identification of staff, 1 Emergency Rapid-Response Team has been deployed (7 professionals), 1 Mobile Health Unit of a project financed by ECHO has been deployed and activated (7 professionals), and 1 Psychosocial Support and Mental Health Team has been activated and deployed (4 professionals).
<b>Protection, Gender And Inclusion</b>	In the Norte de Santander Branch, RCF services have been provided and 4 Friendly Spaces for the protection of children have been activated.
<b>Education</b>	The National Society is working with the Protection Cluster and Educational Cluster to monitor the situation of education in emergencies through the National Headquarters.
<b>Coordination</b>	<p>Considering that this emergency is taking place in an armed conflict situation; the National Society Headquarter is leading and supporting the Branches in the coordination for the response to the affected population.</p> <p>Regarding to the National System, the Colombian Red Cross have been participating in the municipal and departmental councils, and the Protection Cluster, Educational Cluster and the National Board of "Misión Médica".</p>



<b>National Society Readiness</b>	At the Norte de Santander Branch, 125 volunteers and collaborators enrolled at the operational communications course and 19 additional volunteers have been activated, 4 vehicles have been managed, and 2 logistic drivers have been hired for logistics support.
<b>Assessment</b>	At the national level, the Colombian Red Cross in Norte de Santander is conducting a rapid needs and capacity assessment to prioritize the support needed for the operational response; the need to strengthen assistance in food kits and other humanitarian assistance items was identified.
<b>Resource Mobilization</b>	Activation of the resource mobilization platform at the Colombian Red Cross.
<b>Activation Of Contingency Plans</b>	At the National level, a Contingency Plan for Armed Conflict has been developed, and in response to this emergency, a Response Plan has been activated for the Norte de Santander Branch.
<b>National Society EOC</b>	Active Crisis Room at the national level. With the Norte de Santander Branch, meetings are taking place every third day, and daily reports are being held with the Cauca and Chocó Branches. Additionally, weekly monitoring meetings take place with the other branches to update on the situation on a national level.

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>The IFRC Country Delegation in Colombia provides support to the Colombian Red Cross in finance, operations, PMER, internal coordination with in-country Movement partners and external coordination with the humanitarian country team.</p> <p>For this emergency, IFRC team in Colombia supported the formulation of this DREF operation. In addition, support is being provided to identify the departments and municipalities with the greatest needs, gaps and priority actions.</p>
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	The German Red Cross has been supporting the National Society with the establishment of a fixed medical team in the Cúcuta stadium, where food kits and hygiene kits have been distributed to the vulnerable populations affected by the escalation of violence in Norte de Santander. The Norwegian Red Cross supported the Rapid Health Response team in its deployment to Ocaña, Norte de Santander, providing care in general medicine, mental health, psychosocial support and nursing. Additionally, the visibility of the Misión Médica has been raised, ensuring that communities have access to these essential services.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC have maintained channels of communication, including confidential and bilateral dialogue with emphasis on the protection and respect for the civilian population, as well as health assistance and access to impartial humanitarian organizations. Additionally, the ICRC is supporting local authorities and communities with the recovery of deceased persons, contributed to the payment of funeral expenses, is collecting missing persons requests as well as arrest allegations from families who lost contact.

In its Operational Partnership Agreement with the National Society, the ICRC has been supporting activities in Norte de Santander covering some operational, logistical and volunteer support costs. ICRC has supported WASH actions, has delivered health kits for urgent medical care to several hospitals in Cúcuta, has provided cash support to vulnerable people with urgent protection needs, and has been monitoring the security context and humanitarian access. In Choco and Cauca, they are supporting the NS in monitoring the situation.

For this intervention, it is planned to coordinate with the ICRC to ensure that security conditions and Safer Access are present for the intervention of staff and volunteers of the National Society on the field.



# Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>The Government has implemented strategies to mitigate the humanitarian crisis, including the distribution of 213.52 tons of food assistance in Norte de Santander. Psychosocial care has also been provided to victims of the conflict. In Norte de Santander, 64 evacuation flights were carried out, transferring 723 people, and security was reinforced in affected areas. Humanitarian organizations have protected affected communities, strengthened ethnic governments and provided mental health care. They have also distributed food, promoted education within protective spaces and improved access to drinking water and sanitation. In Choco and Cauca, the situation is being monitored due to the armed strike that began on 18 February.</p> <p>Even though the Government has not officially requested international assistance for the response to this crisis, the MOFA has convened a meeting with the Humanitarian Country Team, in which international support was solicited, due to the magnitude and unprecedentedness of the events.</p>
UN or other actors	<p>OCHA has been closely monitoring the situation and humanitarian needs in the affected departments, through the Local Humanitarian Coordination Teams.</p> <p>In addition, several actors have been involved in the displacement emergency in Norte de Santander, starting January 2025. UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, and other organizations have centered their efforts in the providing of assistance to vulnerable communities in the areas of WASH, Shelter, PGI, Health, Education, and Livelihoods.</p> <p>The United Nations has allocated \$3.8 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support displaced populations and host communities in the Catatumbo region. Nonetheless, the needs remain enormous due to the number of people affected, especially considering the escalating needs in the departments of Norte de Santander, Chocó and Cauca.</p>

## Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

At the national level, the National Unit for Attention and Reparation to Victims is the institution in charge of coordinating the response to the emergency together with the National System. The Colombian Red Cross participates in the Unified Command Post (PMU) and The Municipal Departmental Councils, of Civil Defense and the Ombudsman's Office; through the leadership of the local governments. The Colombian Red Cross together with other response institutions and technical monitoring institutions, also participates in the National Crisis Rooms and coordination spaces at the Departmental and Municipal levels, which allow the National Society to make decisions based on evidence and knowledge. In addition, the National Society is part of and participates in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), a space to support and complement the response to emergencies caused by armed violence and natural disasters, with emphasis on areas of difficult access and affected populations.

Within the Movement, the National Society activated their Crisis Room to ensure coordination of Movement response in support of the Branches. A high-level Movement coordination meeting took place late January and was attended by IFRC, ICRC and the PNSs present in the country (German, American, Spanish, Norwegian, Canadian and Italian RC), to deepen efforts as a Movement. During this meeting the National Society presented their Action Plan for the emergency highlighting the volatility of the situation and gaps.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

Currently, displaced persons have had to resort to lodging in the homes of relatives or friends. Likewise, different organizations have offered lodging services in hotels, or in short-stay temporary lodgings, which means that access to safe places with basic hygienic conditions and adequate for human dignity is limited, generating overcrowding and precarious conditions.



In Norte de Santander, municipalities such as Cúcuta and Tibú have received thousands of displaced persons, exceeding the capacity of the shelters. In Cauca and Chocó, many displaced families have had to settle in improvised housing without access to basic services such as basic tools required for food security.

Coordination mechanisms with other humanitarian actors that provide these services have identified the delivery of food, kitchen and tableware kits as complementary services that the Colombian Red Cross can offer.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The confinement limits agricultural production and product commercialization, which seriously affects food security. In Norte de Santander, Cauca and Chocó indigenous and Afro-descendant, and farmer communities that depend on agriculture have lost access to their crops due to the occupation of their territories by armed groups. In Norte de Santander, road closures and control of commercial routes have led to shortages of food and basic products in several rural areas. In Chocó, the displacement of coastal communities has forced them to abandon their fishing and agricultural activities. The provision of family markets is vital to ensure that these communities are fed while their livelihoods are being restored. Particularly, this past 24 February, during the coordination meeting with the National Society Headquarters, the Norte de Santander Branch has requested assistance with food kits and other humanitarian assistance in emergency.



## Health

Displacement due to armed conflict causes multiple physical and psychosocial impacts related to the violent actions that force communities to flee their territories to save their lives and integrity. Since people must walk for long days to reach other municipalities to take shelter for a few days while the intensity of armed actions decreases, during the journey they may cause different physical health problems, such as wounds, skin burns and dehydration. The main psychosocial effects caused by the conflict are related to fear, anxiety, distrust, uncertainty and generalized fear. Due to the magnitude of the event, there is a need to strengthen the knowledge and skills of the volunteer team to provide physical health care and psychological first aid in critical situations that may arise during the development of the actions of this DREF.

Additionally, the rapid development of the operation in the Catatumbo sub-region, located in the department of Norte de Santander, and the involvement of volunteers and personnel for more than a month has generated the need to develop psychosocial deactivation activities with collaborators directly involved during the response to this emergency.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Forced displacement obliges many families to settle in temporary shelters with limited access to hygienic conditions, due to the lack of adequate hygiene facilities in temporary settlements and, in many cases, the overcrowded conditions in which they are located. Forced displacement is characterized by the sudden departure of communities from their homes, making it impossible for people to take their personal belongings, and therefore their personal hygiene implements, with them. In the confinement areas, the population cannot go out to look for basic implements for their survival, nor personal hygiene implements, to prevent the risk of diseases and the maintenance of dignified conditions within the displaced population. Therefore, the delivery of hygiene kits differentiated by age and gender is essential to improve sanitary conditions and prevent diseases.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

In Norte de Santander, Cauca and Chocó, the armed conflict has generated risks such as forced disappearance, child recruitment, gender violence and accidents caused by explosive devices. Therefore, there is a need to implement actions to mitigate these impacts, strengthen community orientation on access to rights, humanitarian aid and risk prevention.

According to the governor of Choco, 80% of the department has the presence or suspicion of explosive artifacts, which has shown the need to disseminate key messages on safe behavior in the face of contamination by weapons, to reinforce the protection of the affected communities.

In Cauca and Chocó, Afro-descendant and indigenous communities have been forced to migrate to the cities, where they may face discrimination and difficulties in accessing their rights, goods and services.







## Migration And Displacement

Norte de Santander is the main host department for migrants from Venezuela due to its location on the border, many people displaced by the conflict seek refuge in this department, where resources are limited to address the dual crisis of internal displacement and migration. It is therefore possible that the migrant population is doubly affected by the armed conflict.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

Due to the difficult access in some areas, there have been limitations for authorities to develop context analysis and needs assessment with the communities; mainly in Choco and Cauca, which has generated that information in these areas is limited and the support of the Red Cross is required for the collection of this information from the community participation and accountability component.

### Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Due to the progressive evolution of displacement in Norte de Santander, it has not been possible to carry out a needs assessment. Chocó has faced several limitations due to the persistence of the armed conflict, the armed strike and the geographical conditions of the affected areas.

1. Restricted access to communities: The confinement imposed by armed groups and the presence of explosive devices have made it difficult for humanitarian teams to enter, limiting the collection of direct information.
2. Lack of updated data: In some areas, available information is partial or outdated, hindering an accurate analysis of the humanitarian situation.
3. Distrust and fear among the population: Affected communities for fear of reprisals may not share key information about their needs.
4. Limited infrastructure and connectivity: In several rural areas, the lack of access to communication and transportation complicates the collection of real-time data.
5. Inter-agency coordination: efforts to consolidate and analyze information from the different humanitarian partners present in the country have been made and a dashboard developed. Nevertheless, there are still several gaps to collect data and information, due to the limitations listed above.

Within the framework of this operation, a context assessment and needs analysis will be conducted in Choco and Cauca.

## Operational Strategy

### Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF Operation, the Colombian Red Cross aims to support 12,000 people (3,000 families) who have been displaced and affected by the armed conflict in the departments of Norte de Santander, Chocó and Cauca during 4 months, through the lines of intervention of livelihoods and basic needs, shelter housing and settlements, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability.

### Operation strategy rationale

This DREF seeks to respond to multiple needs that have arisen because of the escalation of violence and exceptionality of the event, prioritizing support to families that have been displaced in the departments of Norte de Santander, Chocó and Cauca.

The prioritized municipalities in the operation are:

- Norte de Santander: Cúcuta, Ocaña, Tibú, Abrego.
- Chocó: Quibdó, Istmina
- Cauca: Popayán, Argelia, Cajibío, Balboa

The contemplated actions by sector of intervention include:

#### 1. Shelter:

- The volunteers will support the delivery of kitchen kits and tableware set kits and the filling out of the documents for verification sources. Deliveries will be made according to the situation of the region, with the accompaniment of municipal mayor's staff and community leaders to ensure the proper delivery of these items to the affected people and families according to the situation of the



region.

#### 2. Livelihoods and basic needs:

- One of the greatest needs identified in the field is access to essential services such as food. This operation will support displaced families that have already been identified and assessed by the Red Cross, municipal mayors' offices and community leaders. Deliveries will be made with the accompaniment of municipal mayors' staff and community leaders. The kits delivered by the Colombian Red Cross follow the guidelines and minimum standards established according to the humanitarian assistance manuals of the IFRC, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) and the National Society's own standards, as well as the Sphere project standard and the standardization manual for emergency humanitarian aid for Colombia of the UNGRD. Although they contain the basic minimum elements, kits can be adapted according to the cultural and nutritional characteristics of the regions.

#### 3. Health:

- It is necessary to reinforce the volunteer's knowledge and capacity of physical and psychological first aid to support the affected people if necessary, during field activities and distributions. Likewise, it has been evident the need to carry out emotional deactivation processes with volunteers and personnel involved in the operation, particularly in Norte de Santander; in Chocó and Cauca, emotional deactivation is also contemplated at the end of the intervention. Taking into account that the National Society is developing its own health response actions from the beginning of the event through the deployment of emergency rapid response medical teams and mobile health units.

#### 3. WASH:

- With the support of the volunteers, the delivery of hygiene kits differentiated by age will be carried out. The above with the accompaniment of local authorities and community leaders.

#### 4. Protection, Gender and Inclusion:

- Sensibilization on the risk of explosive devices through the dissemination of radio messages on safe behaviors related to weapons contamination so that the community has basic information to mitigate the risks of accidents or incidents in the presence of explosive devices.

- Promotion of access routes to rights through the actions of the volunteer, which will disseminate information related to the legal mechanisms established for the attention of victims of the armed conflict. To this end, the Colombian Red Cross will be in communication with the local authorities in order to disseminate the official information established for the territory.

#### 5. Community Engagement and Accountability:

- Community surveys, interviews with local leaders, focus groups and participatory meetings will be implemented to better understand the needs of the population. In addition, radio channels and digital tools will be used to strengthen two-way communication with communities, allowing them to receive reports and feedback on the situation on the field. This approach will ensure that the humanitarian response is based on reliable information and the priorities expressed by the affected communities.

- Field visits will be made to update the needs and context analysis, assess humanitarian needs and protection risks, and identify the response capacities of each Branch. This assessment is planned for Cauca and Chocó.

This DREF will complement the National Society's response plan for the crisis in the departments of Norte de Santander, Chocó, and Cauca, focusing on the most urgent needs identified in the field.

Additionally, it is worth highlighting that this DREF aligns with and complements ongoing efforts by Movement Partners, humanitarian organizations and the government. For instance, the German and Norwegian Red Cross are primarily supporting health services, while the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) initially focused on protection measures and facilitating humanitarian access.

At the same time, the CERF allocation will provide critical emergency assistance to 42,700 people, including displaced populations and host communities, primarily in Norte de Santander. This response will cover food assistance, emergency shelter, essential household items, access to safe water and sanitation, education, and protection services, with a particular focus on child protection and gender-based violence. The funding serves as an initial response to address urgent needs over the next three months while additional resources are mobilized.

Finally, regarding the exit strategy for this operation, it is worth highlighting that the Colombian Red Cross, with the support of the German Red Cross and IFRC, is developing an Early Action Protocol for complex crisis aimed at mitigating the risk of a population movement to turn into a humanitarian crisis.



# Targeting Strategy

## Who will be targeted through this operation?

This IFRC-DREF will prioritize attention to people who have been displaced by violence in the departments of Norte de Santander, Chocó and Cauca, mainly from the municipal capitals coming from rural areas.

The municipalities prioritized in the framework of this operation have been considered taking into account the presence of the Colombian Red Cross in the field, humanitarian access, logistical conditions, operational security, the presence of other humanitarian actors and other resources.

The distribution of assisted people by departments as follows:

- Norte de Santander: 6,000 people (1,500 families)
- Choco: 4,000 people (1,000 families)
- Cauca: 2,000 people (500 families)

It is worth highlighting that this DREF interventions initially aims to target displaced populations, but not confined populations due to the implications in terms of access and security. However, as the needs analysis in the field progresses, it is possible that the prioritized municipalities and people targeted will be updated.

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Priority will be given to families that have not been reached with humanitarian assistance by the National Risk Management Unit or families that require additional and complementary support from the Colombian Red Cross.

The criteria for prioritizing families and the population to be served are as follows:

- Families with children under 5 years old.
- Families with pregnant or breastfeeding women or adolescents.
- Families with members with special abilities (physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual) or with chronic or degenerative diseases that make it impossible for them to work.
- Families with two or more dependents per adult of working age and able to work (dependency ratio equal to or higher than 2): dependents are persons under 18 and over 60, and persons with disabilities.
- Persons at risk of protection (due to armed conflict).
- Single adult heads of household with dependent children.
- People over 60 years of age.

Kitchen and cooking kits will be prioritized for individuals in shelters who have not received these items from other partners or funding sources. Meanwhile, food kits will be distributed to displaced families based on the identification process carried out by the Colombian Red Cross and local disaster management committees in host municipalities.

It is worth highlighting that some families, particularly those in shelters, may receive kitchen kits, tableware, and food kits, based on the assessment carried out by the National Society.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	4,800	Rural	51%
Girls (under 18)	1,440	Urban	49%
Men	4,680	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	1,080		
Total targeted population	12,000		



# Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
<p>Access and mobility risk due to restrictions imposed by armed actors that hinder access to main roads.</p>	<p>Priority has been given to host municipalities and therefore accessible for humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>The identification of needs will make it possible to verify the status of and access to the communities by means of land transportation in accordance with the current conditions of the territory.</p> <p>Continuous monitoring through local teams and the information and telecommunications center and crisis room to analyze the dynamics of risk scenarios.</p> <p>Synergy with National Entities such as the National Unit for the Attention and Reparation of Victims, the Ombudsman's Office, the Governor's Office, the Municipal Mayor's Office, Municipal and Departmental Councils.</p>
<p>Physical health risks</p>	<p>Strict use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for volunteers and operation support personnel.</p> <p>Attention to self-care and public health measures for the Colombian Red Cross.</p> <p>Strengthen the capacities of volunteers to provide physical health care in critical situations that may arise within the framework of the DREF project.</p>
<p>Psychosocial health risks</p>	<p>Strengthen the capabilities of volunteers to provide psychological first aid in critical situations that may arise during the development of this DREF's actions.</p> <p>Implement strategies that promote emotional stability through psychological support, psychosocial accompaniment and self-care mechanisms that allow them to manage stress and the emotional burden of their work.</p>
<p>Administrative and supply-chain risks including potential delays in the procurement of items</p>	<p>Establishment of compliance measures with suppliers in relation to the logistics processes linked to the contract.</p> <p>Planned support from IFRC procurement team.</p>
<p>Protection and security risks due to the presence of armed actors in the area where armed confrontations may generate a risk for access to some areas.</p>	<p>Ensure that all personnel have the necessary insurance prior to deployment and verify that they have completed the security training courses required by IFRC.</p> <p>Prior induction and training in Operational Security, delivery of the 1000 Series Manual to the Branches and Operational staff involved.</p> <p>Operational Communication in Humanitarian Intervention, as well as adequate briefing prior to any mission.</p> <p>Prior security monitoring with ICRC support at local and national level.</p>



Institutional visibility and identification, through the provision of Colombian Red Cross badges, indicative and protective badges for all vehicles used in the operation, as well as "No Weapons" stickers for institutional vehicles.

Continuous information and follow-up during the development of humanitarian intervention activities.

In the department of Choco, an armed strike has taken place on the 18 February. It is possible that other armed strikes take place during the time of the operation.

Continuous coordination between the National Society and ICRC is planned. Even though some field operations may be subject to sudden rescheduling or may be paused, the national coordination and management actions will continue throughout the whole of the operation.

### Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The main security concerns for the operation include access restrictions imposed by armed actors, attacks on humanitarian missions, presence of explosive devices (anti-personnel mines, unexploded ordnance and booby traps), violence against the civilian population and armed strikes that may limit the mobility of humanitarian personnel.

To mitigate these risks, the intervention will be based on an operational security approach, prioritizing safe access, constant monitoring of the context and coordination with local actors to ensure the delivery of assistance without compromising the integrity of staff or the communities served.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

## Planned Intervention



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 17,090

Targeted Persons: 4,800

### Indicators

Title	Target
# of families supported with kitchen kits	600
# of families supported with tableware set kits	1,200

### Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of kitchen kits and tableware set kits for families affected.



### Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 78,017

Targeted Persons: 12,000



## Indicators

Title	Target
# of families supported with family foods kits	3,000

## Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of family food kits to the families affected



**Budget:** CHF 4,111

**Targeted Persons:** 45

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers updated on physical first aid	45
# of volunteers updated on psychological first aid	45

## Priority Actions

- Refreshment for volunteers on physical first aid and psychological first aid
- Purchase and delivery of first aid kits



**Budget:** CHF 40,495

**Targeted Persons:** 5,100

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of people who receive differentiated hygiene kits	5,100

## Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of hygiene kits for people affected



**Budget:** CHF 7,703

**Targeted Persons:** 30

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of radio spots on safe behaviors regarding weapon contamination in Choco and Cauca	4
# of PGI ENI deployed in Chocó	1
# of volunteers updated on Safe Access routes to rights and GBV prevention in Choco and Cauca	30
# of documents formulated with the risk analysis for the protection of children within the framework of the operation	1

## Priority Actions

- Renting airtime for a radio spots.
- Deployment of a PGI ENI
- Volunteer refreshment on Access routes to rights and GBV prevention
- Preparation of the Child Protection Risk Analysis document



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 4,111

**Targeted Persons:** 30

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of activated feedback mechanisms	1
# of staff/volunteers oriented (refresher training) on CEA and community feedback mechanism	10
# of people participating in community focus group and interviews for feedback	30

## Priority Actions

- Rapid context and need analysis (Choco and Cauca)
- Activate a feedback mechanism to receive and address complaints from communities
- Conduct virtual refresher sessions and orientation on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) for volunteers and staff
- Development of focus groups to provide feedback on the intervention



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 11,022

**Targeted Persons:** 0

## Indicators

Title	Target
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# of missions developed by the procurement/logistics regional focal point	1
# of monitoring visits conducted	3

## Priority Actions

- Regional mission for the procurement/logistics focal point of the IFRC to Colombia
- Need Assessment visits
- Monitoring visits



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 59,515

**Targeted Persons:** 30

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers involved in the operation	30
# of ENIs deployed	1
# of lessons learned workshops	1
# of monitoring visits conducted by the National Society	3
# of staff trained on DREF guidelines and aware of the standard procedures	10

## Priority Actions

- Involvement of volunteers in the activities
- Deployment of ENI Volunteers
- Conduct lessons learned workshop to capture insights and improvements
- Conduct virtual refresher and awareness sessions for the national and branch staff of the National Society, including administrative staff to make sure the timely settlement and follow the IFRC-DREF guidelines during the emergency operation
- Monitoring visits

# About Support Services

## How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

Approximately 30 volunteers from the prioritized branches will be involved in the implementation of this IFRC-DREF Operation.

The Colombian Red Cross Society has an insurance plan through the policyholder, the National Disaster Risk Management Unit (UNGRD), which includes Civil Defense, Firefighters, and Colombian Red Cross volunteers. The insurance covers the National Society volunteers through life and accident insurance through Law 782 of 2002 with Decree 2012 of 2003. This insurance is renewed periodically, and the Colombian Red Cross receives the respective documentation.

Additionally, the staff directly supported by IFRC-DREF funding include:

- 1x National Coordinator with 100% dedication to the project, who will be responsible for managing the administrative, technical, and operational implementation of the project: ensuring the implementation of the response cycle and the execution of the technical and financial objectives of this Fund.
- 1x National Administrative Assistant Staff with 100% dedication to the project, will be responsible for accompanying the legalization





process and financial follow-up, and procurement management.

- 1x Accounting Assistant Personnel with 100% dedication to the project, who will be responsible for the financial records in the Financial Information System managed by the Colombian Red Cross Society, monthly reconciliations, review of budgets, and support in the consolidation of financial information.
- 1x Local Coordinator with 100% dedication to the project, who will be responsible for managing the administrative, technical, and operational implementation of the project in Choco.
- 2x General ENIs volunteers that will be supporting the activities in Choco and Cauca.

## **If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?**

The National Society has a procurement process for emergency cases, which has already been activated for this emergency. Based on this, acquisitions will be carried out by the National Society with the support of the IFRC procurement team.

## **How will this operation be monitored?**

The monitoring and progress of the operation will be carried out weekly between the National Society and the IFRC delegation in Colombia, as well as a context assessment and needs analysis at the beginning of the operation to make the necessary adjustments to the activities, as well as several monitoring visits by the National Society staff, the operation team and IFRC staff of the Delegation in Colombia.

## **Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation**

Institutional actions will be made visible through distinctive elements with the Colombian Red Cross emblem, which will facilitate the identification of the points available for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. These actions will be complemented by the collection of graphic material that will serve as inputs for the development of communication pieces that will be published on the social networks of the institution and the coordination spaces. The Colombian Red Cross Communications and Image Office will provide support in this aspect.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRCO029 - Colombian Red Cross Colombia: Population Movement

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>151,527</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	17,090
Livelihoods	78,017
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	4,111
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	40,495
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	7,703
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	4,111
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>70,536</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	11,022
National Society Strengthening	59,515
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>222,064</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*



# Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

**National Society contact:** Juvenal Francisco Moreno, National Executive Director, francisco.moreno@cruzrojacolombiana.org

**IFRC Appeal Manager:** Tiziana Bonzon, Head of Country Delegation, tiziana.bonzon@ifrc.org

**IFRC Project Manager:** Edwin Armenta, Coordinator Programs and Operations, edwin.armenta@ifrc.org

**IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Edwin Armenta, Coordinator Programs and Operations, edwin.armenta@ifrc.org

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[Click here for the reference](#)

